

REMARKS

Claims 8-24 and 26-39 remain pending in this application. Claims 12-21, 23, 24 and 30-39 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions.

In the Office Action dated March 5, 2007, the Examiner: (1) requested that the status of the related applications referenced in the specification be updated; and (2) rejected claims 8-11, 22 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunnell (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,122) in view of Sumsion et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,865). Applicants address each of these items in turn below.

Related Applications

The Examiner requests that the status of the related applications referenced in the specification be updated. In response to the Examiner's request, Applicants have amended the specification to update the status of each referenced application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 8-11, 22 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunnell in view of Sumsion et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claims 8, 22 and 26

With respect to independent claims 8, 22 and 26, the Examiner asserts that Bunnell teaches a “management service,” which the Examiner equates to the recited “lookup service.” Office Action (March 5, 2007), at 3. The Examiner admits that Bunnell “does not explicitly recite the management service including a service item containing at least a stub or a serialized object for use in accessing the at least one of the services.” Id. However, the Examiner cites Sumsion et al. as allegedly teaching “a system and method for implementing a resource access system utilizing a stub for performing functions related to servicing a client to be given access to a server resource,” and asserts that “[o]ne of ordinary skill in the art . . . would have found it obvious to utilize in combination with the management service provided by Bunnell functioning as a network lookup service a method for servicing a client by performing resource access utilizing a stub.” Id.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s characterizations of Bunnell and Sumsion et al. and further disagree with the Examiner’s conclusion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Bunnell and Sumsion et al. to arrive at Applicants’ invention. Nevertheless, solely in order to advance prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 8, 22 and 26 to recite that “the lookup service compris[es] a flat collection of service items.” Support for this amendment is found at least on page 13, ll. 3-4, of Applicants’ original specification.

By contrast, Bunnell recites that the “[t]he distributed directory has a hierarchy of objects A set of object representations are displayed in a relationship to one another for representing the hierarchy of objects for at least a portion 40 of the distributed directory.” Bunnell, 3:35-46.

In this hierarchy, objects closer to the root are superior or parents to objects further from the root, which are considered subordinate or children. [As shown in FIG. 2, f]or instance, the object M is the parent of the child object C. Object M can also be referred to as the container to object C. The distributed directory 30 is additionally organized in partitions, as illustrated by the dashed ellipses, with each partition comprising a plurality of objects organized as a logical sub-tree. Like objects, partitions closer to the root of the distributed directory 30 are called parent partitions to those further from the root, which are called child partitions.

Id. at 6:30-40.

Thus, the distributed directory of Bunnell, which the Examiner equates to the recited lookup service, contains a hierarchy of objects rather than a flat collection of service items. Further, Sumsion et al. is not relied upon to teach a lookup service and does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Bunnell. Therefore, the rejection of independent claims 8, 22 and 26 as amended is unsupported by Bunnell and Sumsion et al., whether taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Dependent Claims 9-11 and 27-29

Claims 9-11 and 27-29 depend from one of independent claims 8 and 26. As explained above, the rejection of claims 8 and 26 lacks support in Bunnell and Sumsion et al., whether taken alone or in combination. Therefore, the rejection of claims 9-11 and 27-29 also lacks support in Bunnell and Sumsion et al. for at least the same reasons as those given above with respect to claims 8 and 26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 9-11 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Conclusion

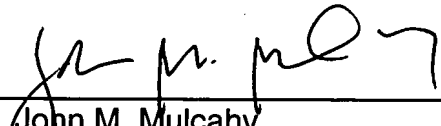
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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